

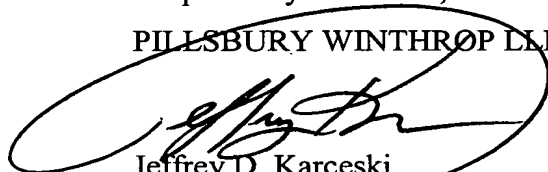
REMARKS

In response the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, mailed July 9, 2004, this Preliminary Amendment, which was originally filed on February 12, 2004, has been changed to meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on June 30, 2003. For claims 15, 17 and 18, the presentation of the claims was changed so that the parenthetical "Presently Amended" was replaced with the proper status identifier "Currently Amended." For claims 26-35, the parenthetical was changed to replace "Newly Added" with the proper status identifier "New."

By this amendment, claims 15, 17, and 18 are amended, claims 21-23 and 25 are canceled, and claims 26-35 are newly presented. Accordingly, after entry of this Revised Preliminary Amendment and the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 21, 2004, claims 15-18 and 26-35 will remain pending. The claim amendments are being made simply to vary the scope of patent protection being sought in this divisional application and are not being made for purposes of responding to any rejection of the claims as unpatentable. Accordingly, entry of these amendments should not impact their scope under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Timely and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



Jeffrey D. Karceski

Reg. No. 35913

Tel. No. (703) 905-2110

Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Customer No.: 00909

Date: July 14, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000